

Vestal, NY - With cuts to education likely at the state and local level, Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today outlined his efforts to provide \$23 billion in federal funding to save 250,000 education related jobs throughout the country. New York would receive \$1.4 billion of the funding, saving an estimated 19,500 jobs. Hinchey led a group of 51 House members in calling for Senate leaders to schedule a vote as soon as possible for an emergency supplemental bill to provide the funding. The House passed a similar bill in December with Hinchey's strong support.

"With funding from the federal economic recovery act set to run out and states still facing budget shortfalls, it is now more urgent than ever that we act to prevent teacher layoffs," Hinchey said. "Local school districts are seeing what everyone is seeing across the country. The House did its work and the Senate must immediately take up this issue so that our schools have the resources they need to maintain jobs for the teachers and educational support staff who are so important to the future of our children. We count on our teachers to go to work every day so that students can receive the education they need to fulfill their potential and achieve their dreams - now they're counting on us and we simply can't let them down."

Hinchey spoke at the administrative building for the Vestal City School District, which is being forced to consider cutting 44 positions, including kindergarten, middle school and high school teachers. Several teacher assistants, aids and custodians may also lose their jobs unless the federal government acts.

In December, the House passed the Jobs for Main Street Act with Hinchey's strong support. It contained the \$23 billion funding provision needed to protect 250,000 education-related jobs. This bill was not taken up by the Senate, which favored more incremental fixes, prompting the House Education and Labor Committee to release a new bill called the Local Jobs for America Act. The new bill, also co-sponsored by Hinchey, helps retain jobs for public service employees, including firefighters, public safety, transportation and health care workers while also providing the \$23 billion needed to save teachers' jobs.

Hinchey is now leading the effort to push the Senate to immediately follow the House's lead and pass a bill introduced this week by U.S. Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) that would provide the \$23 billion in needed funds.

Last year, Hinchey strongly supported and voted to provide more than \$100 billion for states to support their public school systems as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). This funding has been credited with creating and retaining more than 300,000 education-related jobs including positions for teachers, nurses, bus drivers and custodians. It also helped states avoid a budget crisis that would have resulted in significant cuts to school system budgets. With this funding set to run out and states still facing bleak budgetary outlooks, new action is needed to prevent layoffs.